



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2002

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
(202)289-6400

Atlantic Coastal States Schedule Public Hearings on Draft Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass FMP *Hearings to be Held in September/October*

Washington, DC – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through North Carolina have scheduled the dates and times of their hearings in order to gather public comment and input on the recently released Draft Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Following are the details of the scheduled meetings.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

September 23, 2002; 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Ellsworth Holiday Inn
Hancock Room
215 High Street
Ellsworth, Maine
Contact: Lew Flagg at (207)624-6548

And

September 25, 2002; 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Sheraton Tara Hotel
Sebago Room
363 Maine Mall Road
South Portland, Maine
Contact: Lew Flagg at (207)624-6548

And

September 26, 2002; 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Wicasset Middle School Cafeteria
252 Federal Street (Route 218)
Wicasset, Maine
Contact: Lew Flagg at (207)624-6548

New Hampshire Fish & Game

October 2, 2002; 7:00 PM
Region 3 Office, 225 Main Street
Durham, New Hampshire
Contact: John Nelson at (603)868-1096

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

September 24, 2002; 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Boston-Dedham Hotel and Conference Center
55 Ariadne Road (Junction of Route 1A and I-95)
Dedham, Massachusetts
Contact: Paul Diodati at (617)626-1528

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

October 3, 2002; 6:00 PM
Building C
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island
Contact: Brian Murphy at (401)423-1941

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

October 9, 2002; 7:00 PM
Ramada Inn Stratford
222 Lordship Boulevard
Stratford, Connecticut
Contact: Ernie Beckwith at (860)434-6043

And

October 10, 2002; 7:00 PM
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut
Contact: Ernie Beckwith at (860)434-6043

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

1444 Eye Street, N.W. -- Sixth Floor -- Washington, D.C. 20005
(202)289-6400 (phone) (202)289-6051 (fax)
www.asmf.org

New York Department of Environmental Conservation

September 18, 2002; 7:30 PM – 10:30 PM
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Student Activities Center Auditorium
Nicholls Road
Stony Brook, New York
Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631)444-0430

And

October 1, 2002; 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM
Meeting location to be determined
New Paltz, New York
Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631)444-0430

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

September 17, 2002; 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Ocean County Administration Building
101 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, New Jersey
Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609)292-2083

And

September 26, 2002; 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Vineland Public Library
Doris Tripp Room
1058 East Landis Avenue
Vineland, New Jersey
Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609)292-2083

Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

October 1, 2002; 7:30 PM
Richardson & Robbins Building
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware
Contact: Roy Miller at (302)739-3441

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

October 1, 2002; 7:30 PM
Ramada Inn
Chesapeake Ballroom

300 South Salisbury Boulevard
Business #13
Salisbury, Maryland
Contact: Howard King at (410)260-8264

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

October 10, 2002; 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Anne Arundel Community College
Humanities Building, Room 112
101 College Parkway (Main Campus)
Arnold, Maryland
Contact: Howard King at (410)260-8264

Potomac River Fisheries Commission

September 26, 2002; 6:00 PM
222 Taylor Street
Colonial Beach, Virginia
Contact: A.C. Carpenter at (804)224-7148

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

October 7, 2002; 7:00 PM
2600 Washington Avenue
Fourth Floor Conference Room
Newport News, Virginia
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757)247-2247

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

October 8, 2002; 7:00 PM
North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island
374 Airport Road
Manteo, North Carolina
Contact: Pres Pate: (252)726-7021

And

October 10, 2002; 7:00 PM
Pitt Community College
Leslie Building, Room 143
1986 Pitt Tech Road, Highway 11S
Winterville, North Carolina
Contact: Pres Pate: (252)726-7021

The Draft Amendment provides extensive options for the long-range management of Atlantic coastal striped bass populations. The three primary issues addressed in the Draft Amendment include management program goals, objectives and planning horizon, modifications to the biological reference points, and allocation of the resource by user group and area. The document presents information on habitat issues, bycatch and discards of striped bass, monitoring programs, and protected species/fishery interactions.

The Board intends to meet prior to the end of the year to review public comment received at the state hearings and submitted in written form, and select the preferred measures to be included in the final draft of the Amendment. Copies of the Public Hearing Draft can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org. Public comment on the document will be accepted until **October 18, 2002** and should be forwarded to Robert Beal, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or rbeal@asmfc.org. For more information, please contact Robert Beal at (202)289-6400.